

ECONOMY

As our region continues to be recognized for its innovative leadership in sustainable practices, we also stand to benefit from the emerging green economy. Our commitment to building sustainable practices for City operations will help Gresham attract green industry and bring stable jobs that can grow with the changing economy.



PLANNING & DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLY

- ✦ City Council approved Green Street Standards and Low Impact Development Practices (LID).
- ◀ Gresham's first green street wins National American Public Works Association award for its innovative design to minimize impacts to the environment.
- ✦ Gresham is a designated Tree City USA.

GREEN DECONSTRUCTION VS. DEMOLITION IN THE CITY'S FIRST URBAN RENEWAL AREA

The Redevelopment Commission recycled 97% of an 85,000 square foot building, including 3,590 tons of concrete, 80 tons of metal, 1 ton of glass windows, 150 tons of waste wood, 250 tons of laminated beams and 25 tons of tongue and groove wood. ▶



SPRINGWATER: A MODEL INDUSTRIAL AREA WITH SUSTAINABLE FOCUS

Green building standards have been incorporated into development code for Springwater, which includes a menu of options such as green roofs, renewable energy systems, bioswales and pervious surfaces. Investing in sustainable design will attract target industries with family wage jobs.

SUSTAINABLE GRESHAM

*Sustainability has many definitions. In Gresham, we understand it to mean meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. For us, this translates into doing City business with an eye to protecting our triple bottom line: building a **sustainable economy**, ensuring we are meeting the **needs of the community** now and in the future, and **protecting our environment** and conserving our natural resources.*

We are proud of the work our citizens, businesses and the City have accomplished so far to invest in sustainable practices. It is our pleasure to share a sample of the City's efforts to date. These actions are already yielding benefits to Gresham residents, and we look forward to continuing on the path toward a Sustainable Gresham.



CITY OF GRESHAM

COMMUNITY

Our commitment to serving the community is a critical component of our City's efforts around sustainability. From implementing enhanced recycling programs making it easier for our residents and businesses to recycle, to promoting resource conservation practices in our schools, City programs and staff help to build a sustainable community for generations to come. Gresham residents do their part by recycling at the curb, volunteering to clean up a park, picking up litter along a road or serving on a citizen committee. The dedication and support of our community helps us achieve our goals.



- ♦ 2009 annual Earth Day Celebration draws more than 80 residents and collects electronics waste and fluorescents for proper recycling.
- ◀ The award-winning Streamside Property Outreach Program helps residents protect riparian and wildlife habitats.
- ▼ Healthy Lawns Project and Integrated Pest Management systems reduce toxins in our environment.

Healthy Lawns Project

LOCAL COMMITMENT WITH GLOBAL IMPACTS

Mayor Shane Bemis signs US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement in 2007, focusing our efforts on reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012 for both City operations and within the greater community.

This agreement serves as a framework for measuring Gresham's ability to preserve our environment and conserve natural

resources for future generations. Sustainability performance can be measured against the goals of the Climate Protection Agreement.

- ♦ City hired an Americorps Sustainability Specialist in 2009 to help achieve its goals.



GRESHAM: A LEADER IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

- ◀ Gresham is one of only 19 cities in the US recognized as a Green Power Community for its purchase of renewable energy.
 - ♦ City of Gresham participates in PGE's Green Power Challenge, signing up over 300 residents and businesses for renewable energy purchases.
 - ♦ City of Gresham purchases green power for City operations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy sources.
 - ♦ In 2009, the City will begin installation of one of the largest land-based solar arrays in Oregon at Gresham's Wastewater Treatment Plant.
 - ♦ In 2008, Gresham became the third city government in Oregon to install an electric vehicle plug-in station—the only one in East Multnomah County. ▶



CITIZEN COMMITTEE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The Natural Resources and Sustainability Committee, created to advise City Council on policy development matters related to the environment, provides a forum to discuss sustainability initiatives.

GREEN SCHOOLS, GREEN FUTURE

- ▲ Kelly Creek Elementary in Gresham recently won Ford Motor Company's "Educate to Escape" contest and received "green" improvements to the school worth \$250,000.
- ♦ Eighteen Gresham schools are currently certified as Oregon Green Schools, six have achieved the highest level of Premier.

ENVIRONMENT

From the top of Hogan Butte down to the banks of the Columbia River, the City of Gresham enjoys a varied and rich natural environment. The City recognizes these natural resources are precious treasures that must be protected and managed for use by current and future generations of Gresham residents. Our natural resources are essential elements to the economic success, ecological health, civic vitality and overall quality of life in the City. We as a City have made great strides toward protecting these resources. Environmental preservation is just one more step in our efforts to achieve a Sustainable Gresham.



RECYCLING & WASTE PREVENTION

- ▶ New roll carts help Gresham achieve a 15% increase in residential recycling tonnages in 2008 from 2007.
- ♦ Expanded services to multifamily properties increase recycling and promote resource conservation practices.
- ♦ The GREAT Businesses program offers free assistance, resources and recognition to help businesses conserve natural resources, protect the local environment and help the bottom line. ▶



RESTORING & CONSERVING HABITAT

- ▶ Stream cleanups and streamside protection programs revitalize and protect our streams.
- ♦ Land acquisitions by the City help preserve open space and protect natural areas.
- ♦ Hogan Butte Nature Park Plan adopted by Council in 2008.
- ▼ Gresham AmeriCorps volunteers plant thousands of native trees and plants annually – protecting our streams, cleaning our water and air and enhancing habitat for wildlife.



GREENING CITY HALL & FACILITIES

- ♦ City public works vehicles use a biodiesel blend and hybrid vehicles are used in the general fleet.
- ▶ Fleet Maintenance received Ecological Business Certification from Oregon DEQ and Northwest Automotive Trades Association.
- ▼ The City's award-winning Wastewater Treatment Plant is powered by a cogenerator that converts methane gas to generate electrical power and heat at the facility. Seventy percent of energy use at the plant is sustainable. With installation of the solar array in 2009, we expect to achieve from 65% to 100% renewable energy at the WWTP, depending on the solar power availability.



TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS MAKE GRESHAM STREETS GREENER

- ♦ City installs "smart" traffic signals that improve air quality by timing signals more efficiently to reduce exhaust emissions from idling. ▶
- ♦ The City is implementing a pilot project to convert 26 street lamps to Light Emitting Diode (LED) that save energy, reduce costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- ♦ City awarded the Julian Award for Sustainability in 2008 for innovative rainwater "harvesting" and a solar powered drip irrigation system for landscaping along Beech Street. ▶
- ♦ Additional miles of bike lanes added and improvements made to sidewalks to support use of alternative modes of transportation.



If you have questions or comments about these programs or efforts, please contact the City of Gresham at 503-618-2525.